

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1401 – HB 1466

March 31, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a person to show evidence of compliance with the Financial Responsibility Law in order to register a motor vehicle in the state. Requires insurers to notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the insured immediately of the cancellation or termination of a motor vehicle insurance policy where no replacement policy is issued that the vehicle no longer meets the requirements of the Financial Responsibility Law and that the registration will automatically terminate in ten working days from the date of notice unless the requirements are met. Requires DOR to similarly notify individuals upon withdrawal of any cash deposit or bond that was used to satisfy the requirements of the Financial Responsibility Law. Requires DOR to notify individuals of the termination of their vehicle's registration. Specifies that insurers not providing the required notification shall remain liable to the extent of the original policy for any accident.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Revenue – Net Impact –

\$7,060,300/FY09-10

\$8,475,800/FY10-11 and Subsequent Years

Increase State Expenditures –

\$819,600/FY09-10

\$837,700/FY10-11 and Subsequent Years

Decrease Local Revenue – Net Impact –

\$12,773,100/FY09-10

\$15,333,900/FY10-11 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$250,700/FY09-10*

Exceeds \$301,000/FY10-11 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- According to DOR, there were 5,361,512 vehicles registered in Tennessee as of February 2, 2009.

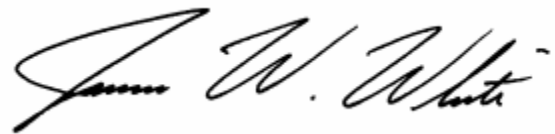
- The number of registered vehicles remains constant.
- According to information provided by the Comptroller in 2007, the uninsured motorist rate in Tennessee for 2005 was 21 percent.
- Twenty percent (1,072,302) of registered vehicles are driven by uninsured motorists.
- Fifty percent of registered vehicles driven by uninsured motorists (536,151) will not be able to acquire insurance and will not be able to register vehicles, thus resulting in decreases of state and local government revenue derived from registration fees.
- According to DOR, the average state registration fee among all class codes is approximately \$28.00 per vehicle.
- The decrease to state revenue attributable to reduced registration fees is estimated to be \$15,012,200 per year ($536,151 \times \$28.00 = \$15,012,228$).
- According to DOR, the average county wheel tax is approximately \$28.75 per vehicle registered.
- The decrease to local government revenue attributable to reduced registrations and wheel tax collections is estimated to be \$15,414,300 per year ($536,151 \times \$28.75 = \$15,414,341$).
- Fifty percent of uninsured motorists (536,151) will be able to acquire appropriate levels of vehicle liability insurance and will be able to renew or maintain vehicle registrations.
- An increase in state revenue estimated to be \$3,400,000 derived from insurance premium taxes as approximately 536,151 individuals acquire liability insurance.
- Ten percent of the remaining uninsured motorists (53,615) will be cited for violations related to expired or invalid registrations. Seventy-five percent (40,211) are expected to have driver licenses suspended or revoked as a result.
- Minimum \$50 fee for driver license reinstatement.
- The average fine for driving on an expired or invalid registration is estimated to be \$50 per violation.
- Twenty percent will not pay fines and/or reinstatement fees due to indigence.
- The increase to state revenue derived from reinstatement fees is estimated to be \$1,608,400 per year ($40,211 \times \$50 \times 80\% = \$1,608,440$).
- Local government receives five percent of fine revenue as commission.
- The increase to state revenue derived from fines is estimated to be \$1,528,000 per year ($40,211 \times \$50 \times 80\% \times 95\% = \$1,528,018$).
- The increase to local government revenue derived from fines is estimated to be \$80,400 per year ($40,211 \times \$50 \times 80\% \times 5\% = \$80,422$).
- An increase to local government expenditures for prosecuting violations estimated to exceed \$201,000 per year statewide (40,211 cases x minimum of \$5 each = \$201,055).

- An increase to local government expenditures for additional county clerk costs for processing registrations with proof of financial responsibility, mailing back registrations not properly submitted, and for verification of financial responsibility information. Such additional costs are estimated to exceed \$100,000 per year.
- According to DOR, and based on the department receiving approximately 536,000 notifications from insurance companies, 16 additional positions would be required to implement the provisions of this bill. The associated increase to recurring state expenditures is estimated to be \$836,700 per year (\$386,600 salaries, \$276,000 benefits, \$174,100 other). One-time state expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to be \$75,200 (computers, software, office space, supplies, etc.).
- Additional one-time state expenditures for computer enhancements and software modifications estimated to be \$46,600.
- Additional recurring state expenditures of \$1,000 per year for supplying insurance companies appropriate forms.
- The first year impact is estimated at 83.3 percent of the first full-year impact due to the September 1, 2009 effective date.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

/rnc